

Elayne Boosler: Fiesty, up front with laughs

By Shirlee Rose Iden
staff writer

She's no rose and no shrinking violet either, but lets are on that Elayne Boosler will be a popular Valentine in town next week.

If you like your women and your comics feisty and up front, Boosler may be one ticket to an outstanding evening of fun in two shows Thursday, Feb. 14, at the Mainstreet Comedy Showcase in Ann Arbor. She returns Wednesday and Thursday, March 27-28, to Mainstreet.

Born in Brooklyn, with a built-in sense of humor, the second child of a tool and die maker and a ballerina, Boosler said she was working toward a degree in tanning at the University of South Florida, when lightning struck. She decided to make a complete turn around and opted for New York and a try at show biz.

Her show business debut was far from auspicious. Boosler started as a singing waitress, but soon decided singing wasn't her thing. Turning to plan two, she set her focus on a career as a stand-up comedy.

BOOSLER, who was 18, clicked in comedy and after 18 years is considered one of the nation's leading comics. She plays in comedy clubs and large auditoriums from Maine to Malibu.

"For me, any audience is a great audience," she said.

Called "the first lady of stand-up" by *Hollings Stone Magazine*, Boosler recently starred in a comedy special "Elayne Boosler: Top Tomato" which was broadcast live on Showtime. The production was voted Best Comedy Special of the Year in a Cable Guide readers poll.

The comic has also won accolades as a producer. She heads her own company and has produced five TV specials for which she received award nominations as best performer and best director.

During the summer of 1990, Boosler performed in more than 50 comedy concerts in theaters across the U.S.

Newsweek Magazine called Boosler a "trailblazer" - the first to do stand-up from a woman's point of view without pandering to the men in the audience.

Comedian Richard Lewis, in the *New York Times Magazine*, dubbed Boosler "The Jackie Robinson of my generation." She is "the strongest female working and broke the mold for most female comics."

BOOSLER has never been afraid to look glamorous onstage. Her ma-

terial, which stays away from the demeaning, sweeps from the topical "The contraceptive sponge is just a way of making sex seem more like doing the dishes" to "They say girls are looking for their fathers in a husband. I can dig that. I can dig a man who gives me money and sleeps with my mother."

The comic's stage act takes the audience on a trip from puberty and into adulthood. Starting in the mid 1970s, she was one of the few female comics not to poke fun at her body, her significant other or how tough it is being female.

"I talked about the same things everyone else talked about - paying taxes, dating, trying to earn a living," she said. "It was so radical in its simplicity that it hadn't been done, especially by a woman."

Boosler still thinks she's a great singer and set out to prove it last

summer when she stood up in front of 35,000 baseball fans in Shea Stadium to sing the "Star Spangled Banner."

"That was really a lot of fun," she said. "I love baseball, especially the Mets and in the summer I plan my tour to dovetail with theirs."

Once I judged "Banner Day" for them. They know me very well."

Boosler's rendition of the national anthem was done way before *Huscarle Barr* sang," she explained. Still, the audience was there to watch the New York Mets. That you didn't hear about it indicates this wasn't a *Huscarle Barr* come, but a dignified performance. And Boosler the comic can still belt it out as Boosler the singer.

Elayne Boosler will perform Tuesday, Feb. 12, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, at Mainstreet Comedy Showcase, 114 E. Liberty.



At the age of 18, Elayne Boosler decided to try a career as a stand-up comic. Eighteen years later she is considered one of the nation's leading comics.

Ann Arbor Tickets are \$22.50. For information, call 966-8080. Boosler will also perform Wednesday and Thursday, March 27-28, at Mainstreet.

COMEDY CLUBS

Here are listings of some comedy clubs in our area. To let us know who is appearing at your club, send the information to *Comedy Listings, Observer & Eccentric, Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.*

● CHAPLIN'S EAST

Lord Carrett will appear along

● CHAPLIN'S PLYMOUTH

Randy O'Brien will appear along

● CHAPLIN'S WEST

Ron Frick will appear with

● MISS KITTY'S

Ken Savara will perform Thurs-

SHOWCASE CINEMAS & Observer & Eccentric
FILM • QUIZ
 WIN MOVIE PASSES TO
 SHOWCASE CINEMAS AUBURN HILLS!
 Answer 10 film trivia questions and send your responses in. Winners will be drawn at random.
"L.A. STORY"

 Steve Martin stars in the romantic comedy about a weatherman who gets into the spirit of "L.A." after losing his job.
 QUIZ: In which movie did Steve Martin portray a talented con artist?
 A) Roxanne B) Dirty Rotten Scoundrels C) The Jerk
 ENTRY FORM:
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Anytime _____
 Send to: Showcase Cinemas, 10000 E. Grand Ave., Suite 100, Auburn Hills, MI 48324.

VALENTINE'S

Holiday Inn
 LUCAS & WEST
 1000 W. Main
 48104

On the Town
 DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Winter Weekend Packages!
 3-day, 2-night packages with extras from **\$149** Instant Florida in Ann Arbor. Call for details!
Weber's Inn 2050 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106-4433-3030

THE PERFECT TIME TO FALL IN LOVE
 FEBRUARY 14, 15, 16, 17, 1991
\$49.95 OUR VALENTINE'S DAY GETAWAY SPECIAL.
 For Reservations, call (313) 359-0500.
Sheraton Southfield Hotel
 16000 Southfield Road, Southfield, MI 48034

Overnight Sensation

 Our Overnight Sensation is the weekend's most perfect proposition. A deluxe guest room just made for relaxing. Great health-club facilities. An indoor pool. The city's hottest supper club - right under the same roof. And in the morning, Eggs Benedict** for two in Tango's European Bistro.
The Overnight Sensation for two... just \$69!
Radisson Plaza Hotel
 1000 E. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48106

ICE CAPADES
 CONE TOP OF THE WORLD
 1ST EDITION

Barbie
THE SIMPSONS LIVE TOUR!
 Tuesday, March 12 - Sunday, March 17
JOE LOUIS ARENA
 Thursday, March 14 is **FANNY PACK NIGHT**
 Free Fanny Pack to the first 2000 kids-12 and under at the 7:30 performance.
 Tickets \$13, \$10 & \$8 (limited VIP seats available) at Joe Louis Arena Box Office & all Ticket Centers.
CHARGE BY PHONE (313) 645-6666
 *for adults only. **for 18 & over. *for 18 & over.

A Free Picture Taken at Each Table & A Beautiful Carnation For Your Valentine
make your valentine ours!
 Thursday, February 14th
 Reservations Suggested
CASA LUPITA
 2055 W. Big Beaver in Troy
 800-245-CASA